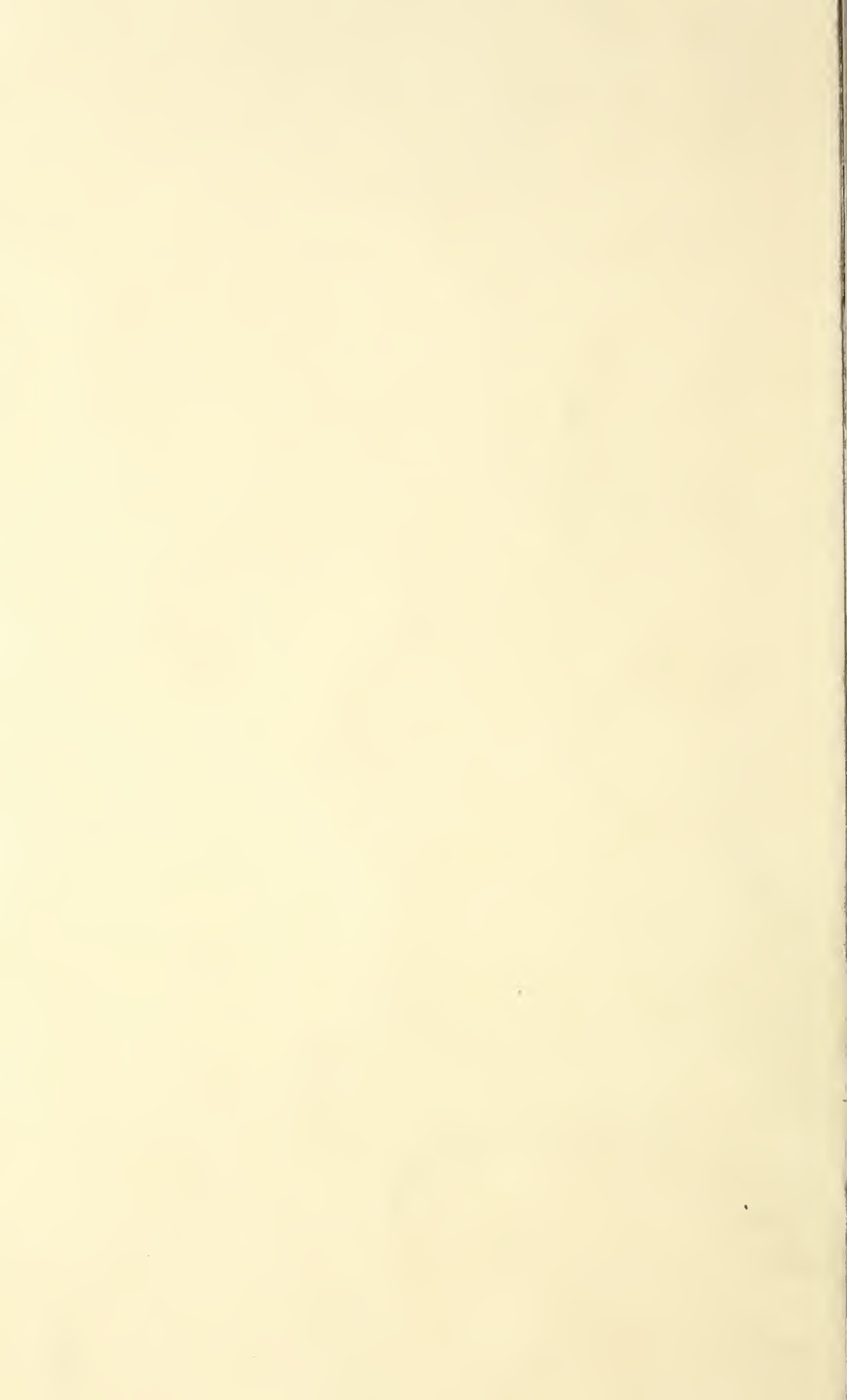


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# LUMBER EXPORT AND OUR FORESTS

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CIRCULAR 140

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, D. C.

June, 1919



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**I**N RECENT MONTHS the prospect of export trade in lumber and wood products has been discussed with perhaps greater interest than any other question confronting the lumber industry. In all this public discussion there is a singular failure to give consideration to the question of supplies of raw materials. Most of the leading industrial nations of the world—whether lightly wooded and dependent upon imports or heavily wooded and exporters—are taking steps to safeguard and develop their timber resources. The United States alone appears to be content to build up a great export trade without considering the ultimate effect upon domestic timber resources and their capacity in the future to supply the home market.

The contrast is clear when one considers how other nations view this situation and its ominous possibilities. New Zealand, for example, passed a law last year restricting the export trade of its native timber in order to safeguard the domestic needs. Switzerland, because of great pressure and high prices for wood products from both the allied and central powers, enacted a law restricting cuttings on private timberlands so as to prevent their exhaustion. Sweden, which is a great timber-exporting country, has a law preventing cutting in excess of annual growth. Norway has adopted a law regulating private cuttings on timberlands. England, as a result of her bitter experience during the war, now has an ambitious plan for planting some 1,700,000 acres and providing a forest area sufficient to sustain her domestic needs, in case of emergency, for three years. France is planning to husband her remaining forests even more carefully than she did before and is already enlarging her forest nurseries for extensive forest plantations. Even Russia, whose enormous forest wealth is bound to play a prominent part in her economic rehabilitation, planned provision for the replacement of timber cut under concession. Though the timber exporting countries are preparing to enter the new markets which reconstruction will create in the war devastated regions, practically all of them except the United States realize that to follow such a policy blindly may involve sacrifice of their future well-being. They, therefore, propose to safeguard the continuance of their timber resources and protect their capacity for production to meet, perhaps, an even greater demand in the future.

**EXPORT SHOULD BE BASED ON A PERMANENT RESOURCE.**

At this time no action should be taken to prevent our country from giving generous aid in the reconstruction of the allied countries. If lumber is needed, it should be supplied. This, however, is a temporary question and does not affect the principles of our permanent export policy with regard to products of the forest.

Broadly speaking, the export of commodities, even of raw or semi-finished material, such as composes the bulk of our wood exports, is a healthy economic development, provided the material might not more advantageously be manufactured into a commodity of higher value, or is not needed for home requirements, and provided the export does not result in the impairment of the natural resource itself. Only when it is built on a permanent resource can an export trade keep the gains that it may make during an exceptionally favorable time. If it is built on the rapid deterioration or exhaustion of such an essential natural resource as timber, no matter how prosperous it may be temporarily, it is doomed to an early death, and instead of an economic advantage, may prove, in the long run, a great economic handicap.

The United States, standing second among the countries of the world in forest area and producing more than half of the sawed lumber, should play a more important part in the export trade of the world than it does now. With proper safeguards in the way of maintaining the raw materials, a strong export trade should be encouraged. But the gains which we may make in the markets of the world can be kept only in so far as they are based on a permanent supply of timber. If they are to be based merely on a cut which, as in the case of the old-growth southern pine, will not supply even our own domestic needs for more than the next 10 or 15 years, we shall soon be crowded out of the foreign markets by countries which base their export trade on a continuous self-perpetuating resource.

The possibilities of expanding our export trade should be considered not only in the light of the capacity of the foreign markets to absorb our lumber and of the competition from other wood-exporting countries but also in the light of our domestic needs, our timber supplies, and the extent to which, by good practice, we may make our forests able to sustain the drain upon them. With the Webb-Pomerene bill now enacted into a law so that American exporters are placed on a more equal footing with exporters from other countries, with our forest owners seeking to exploit their timber as fast as possible, with an aggregate mill capacity far in excess of the domestic needs of the country, and with the opportunities thrust upon us by the great world conflict at a time when our supplies of certain classes of timber are rapidly approaching exhaustion, it is essential for us



as a nation to come now to a full understanding of what our policy should be regarding lumber exports and the issues involved in the attendant drain upon the forests of the country.

### OUR PREWAR EXPORTS.

Before the war we were exporting, roughly, three and one-half billion board feet of lumber and sawlogs, exclusive of ties, staves, and other products. This export was made up of southern yellow pine, Douglas fir, white oak, redwood, white pine, yellow poplar, cypress, walnut, hickory, ash, basswood, and a few others of our more valuable softwoods and hardwoods. Of the total export the softwoods formed about 79 per cent and the hardwoods 21 per cent. Nearly half of the entire export of lumber was southern yellow pine. The export trade takes about 10 per cent of our entire lumber cut.

Offsetting to a certain degree the exports of wood material are our importations from foreign countries. We import about 1,200,000,000 feet of lumber and logs and 1,000,000 cords of pulpwood from Canada. In addition, we import (1914 figures) 895,000,000 shingles from Canada, 565,000,000 lath from Canada, 1,140,000,000 pounds of wood pulp from Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, and other countries, and 600,000,000 pounds of book, newsprint, and wrapping paper from Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Our importation includes also many articles and products derived from wood.

### EUROPE'S EMERGENCY NEED FOR LUMBER.

At present there is an emergency need in Europe for large quantities of lumber for reconstruction. The depletion of Europe's forests during the war and the setback to industrial conditions in the European wood-exporting countries should bring about a demand for larger amounts of American lumber. The quantities required are not so great as many persons have believed, but they are large enough to have a marked effect on the export problems and policies of the countries that will be called upon to supply them. It is a conservative estimate that for increasing housing facilities, for new construction, and for making good the devastation caused by the war, Europe could use about 7,000,000,000 feet of lumber a year above its consumption in normal times. England, for instance, could absorb for housing facilities and other purposes 2,000,000,000 feet of lumber more than it ordinarily uses; France, about a billion and a half or more; Italy, one and three-fourths billion; Belgium, three-fourths of a billion; and Spain, about three-fourths of a billion.

Whether the European countries can actually import these quantities and how much may be contributed by the United States de-

pende on a variety of circumstances. We must, of course, bear in mind the present financial situation in European countries. There will be a question regarding the wisdom of increasing the debt to the United States any more than is necessary, because of the effect on exchange. Europe needs lumber, but above all cheap lumber; and the prices of American lumber, coupled with heavy freight charges, do not make our product attractive for the principal needs of reconstruction. Europe will doubtless use stone, brick, and cement as far as she can; and will seek to utilize with great economy whatever lumber is obtainable at home. The European nations will salvage the material now in temporary structures; they will use stocks on hand, which in the case of certain species like gum, whitewood, walnut, and spruce, are considerable; they will use the accumulated stocks said to exist in Finland and the White Sea ports. They will call upon stocks contracted for in this and other countries before the war but never delivered. If Germany is required to replace certain quantities as a reparation measure, an additional source of raw material is offered. And the well-forested countries of Norway and Sweden will be called upon to produce lumber to the limit of their powers and public policy.

#### PERMANENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPORT.

Aside from the question of the emergency needs of Europe in reconstruction, the world situation in lumber offers an undoubted opportunity for a permanent export trade from this country of proportions that would seem to be limited only by our own powers to sustain the production of raw material. The prewar deficiency in wood which was supplied the nations of western Europe by Russia, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Austria-Hungary, and a few others, amounted to about 16,000,000,000 board feet per year, and represented a value of close to \$600,000,000. This deficiency, because of the tendencies toward industrialization, will become greater as time goes on. The leading countries of Europe must continue to be large importers of timber; the domestic timber capital of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and other countries in Europe which do not grow sufficient timber to supply their entire domestic needs has been still further reduced by the wastage of the war period.

In Europe only Russia, Finland, and Sweden can increase their timber exports without lessening their forest capital. These countries and—in spite of their declining supply—Norway and the southeastern States formerly comprised in Austria-Hungary will be the chief international competitors for the foreign markets, particularly in softwoods. Of the other parts of the world still possessing vast timber areas most are lagging in development and their forest re-



sources remain largely inaccessible and do not contain the common softwoods, the chief staple timber product of international trade. As a matter of fact the Central and South American countries are now dependent upon importations from Canada, the United States, and Sweden for most of their softwoods. Although in time they may develop their own forest resources to cover their domestic needs they will not for many years, if ever, become large exporters of timber of kinds suitable for the wood-using industries of Europe. Africa, in spite of large bodies of tropical forests, does not supply its own needs. Both South Africa and Egypt are large importers.

China is becoming an increasingly large importer of timber. Because of the lack of any large Chinese supplies, the impending industrial development of China, which now seems assured, will necessarily call for large importations of timber, the logical sources of which are Siberia and the United States. Japan can do little more than supply her own needs.

Australia depends upon the importation of softwood timber from the United States and Canada, and will probably never become, a factor in export trade. New Zealand has recently been reported to need a larger importation of Douglas fir and hardwoods. The prices of ordinary building material in New Zealand have so greatly increased during the past few years that the Dominion Builders' Federation has submitted data to the Dominion Board of Trade and Minister of Forestry with a view to the fixing of prices and the strict enforcement of regulations governing exports for the purpose of conserving the domestic timber supplies for home consumption.

It is, of course, to be expected that exports of softwoods from this country will meet with the keenest competition from the exports from Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and the States of Southeastern Europe—Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Galicia, and others—as soon as they are on their feet industrially. These countries will often have the advantage of proximity, cheap freights, better knowledge of the trade customs, and probably cheaper, though inferior, lumber. In the past our export trade has been made up largely of very valuable grades and species; although second to Russia's export in volume, it was higher in value. This was due not only to the fact that the bulk of our export trade was in sawed lumber, but also to the large proportion in it of the valuable grades and species—the cream of our virgin forests. Nature took centuries to produce these kinds of lumber, and we can not expect to grow them any more.

Our hardwoods will be less subject to competition in the foreign markets. The United States has unquestionably the most valuable hardwood trees of any temperate region in the world. It is, with the possible exception of the Carpathian region of eastern Europe, the

largest source of temperate zone hardwoods. Such species as hickory, black walnut, yellow poplar, American white oak, and red oak are known all over the world. These species have found a ready market even in such countries as Sweden and Russia, themselves large exporters of softwood timber. The extent to which they can be exported will be limited only by the available supply and the facilities for production and shipment.

### OUR FOREST SUPPLIES.

The relation of our forest supplies to the export problem can not be judged on a basis of the total amount of timber standing in the country. It is necessary to consider the quantities of different species and of different grades of timber that are in demand abroad and at home. We must also consider the economic effect of rapidly exhausting the available supplies in different regions on which American wood-using industries are wholly dependent. And the effect on the price to the domestic consumer of hastening the exhaustion of local supplies should not be overlooked.

The fact that there are still large quantities of standing timber in the far West does not mean that our country is not already suffering from the consequences of forest destruction. Europe will look first to our Eastern States for lumber, because of the shorter distance. And the eastern supplies of old timber are rapidly approaching exhaustion.

The species which form the bulk of our export trade, except Douglas fir, are those of which the supplies are most depleted. Thus, southern yellow pine forms half of our entire export trade and the available supply is only 222 billion feet. At the present annual cut of saw-log size timber of nearly 17 billion board feet there remains only about 14 years' cut of the original supplies.

That these figures are not a mere theoretical calculation is proved by an official statement recently issued by the Southern Pine Association regarding the life of the southern pine industry. The Southern Pine Association estimates that 81.6 per cent of the mills will cut out their supplies in 5 years, 95.3 per cent in 10 years, and 99 per cent in 15 years.

Aside from lumber, the southern pines, particularly the longleaf pine, are the source of our naval stores, representing a value in excess of \$20,000,000 a year. The position of the United States in regard to these important raw materials is at present a commanding one. Only one other country can be considered a rival, and that country—France—produces only about one-fourth as much as the United States. It is estimated that to maintain the present annual production in the United States of turpentine and rosin would require the setting aside for conservative management of 20,000,000



acres of longleaf-pine land, averaging 2,000 to 3,000 feet per acre, or containing in all from 40,000,000,000 to 60,000,000,000 feet of standing timber. This represents about one-third of the present estimated merchantable stand of longleaf pine. At the present rate of cutting, a serious reduction in the output of turpentine and rosin is not far off. Unless the turpentine industry is placed on a permanent basis, as it is in France, the leadership which the United States possesses because of the abundant supply of longleaf-pine timber will soon pass to France.

At least as far as the southern pines are concerned, the answer seems very clear. We can not afford to increase our export of southern yellow pine, and especially longleaf pine, unless all the pine land best suited to producing timber is placed on a permanent productive basis, for such an increase must hasten the depletion of the southern yellow-pine industry itself and with it of the turpentine industry of the United States.

And yet if the pine lands of the South were fully stocked and made permanently productive they could maintain in perpetuity the turpentine industry even on a larger scale than at present, provide all the yellow-pine lumber necessary for domestic needs, and leave a much larger surplus for export than is being shipped to-day. The area under southern yellow pine is about 124,000,000 acres. If fully stocked with southern pine in good growing condition this area can be brought to produce about 70 cubic feet per acre, or over 27½ billion board feet of lumber a year. The naval-stores industry would be taken care of, there would be the 15¼ billion board feet for domestic needs, and nearly 12,000,000,000 feet would be available for the export trade instead of the present billion and a half.

The supplies of our other softwoods, such as Douglas fir, western white pine, sugar pine, and western yellow pine, are still large, and at the present rate of cutting would last for many decades. The trouble, however, is that the rate of cutting in those species whose supplies are still abundant will greatly increase as soon as the southern yellow pines and the eastern white pine are cut out. If our cut-over pine lands of the South, unsuited to agriculture, were left in a permanently productive condition we could afford to take greater liberties with the remaining stands of other mature softwoods. We could then increase their cut and their export, because in 50 or 60 years we would be assured of new mature stands of southern pines to assume again the burden of supplying wood products for home consumption and for export abroad. As it is, when the southern yellow pines and the eastern white pine are gone, the western timber will have to assume the burden of supplying the principal needs of the country for softwoods.

The hardwood situation is not any better. Of the hardwoods, the white oak plays the most important part in the export trade. About 300,000,000 board feet are exported annually, or about 10 per cent of the entire white oak cut, not including staves. Although we export roughly only 41,000,000 feet in the form of white-oak staves, their manufacture is probably one of the most destructive and wasteful processes in the entire lumber industry. In only a few backward countries of the southeast of Europe and Russia does the stave maker still persist, and even there he is coming more and more under a ban. In this country the best and the finest oak is being used for split staves, and the stave maker is the first to invade and cut the choicest trees of our virgin forests. While the domestic demand for staves may be affected somewhat by the prohibition act, there will continue a call for our choicest white-oak material for the wine and beer kegs of other countries. At the present rate of cutting the available supply, as far as we can judge, will not last for more than 25 years.

The other valuable American hardwoods which play a conspicuous part in our export trade are yellow poplar, black walnut, hickory, oak, and basswood. We export about 35,000,000 feet of yellow poplar, or 7 per cent of the total cut. There is an available supply of this species for not much more than 20 years. We export about 25,000,000 feet of black walnut, or practically half of the entire cut, and the visible supply will not last for more than 10 or 12 years under the present methods of cutting. In 1913, for instance, a typical year, there were exported about 12,711,000 feet of black walnut logs and about 16,500,000 feet of lumber, out of an entire cut of about 53,000,000 feet. Of the 12,711,000 feet of black walnut logs exported, 10,307,000 feet went to Germany. The supplies of hickory, ash, and basswood can not be readily determined, but at the present rate of cutting they will be fairly exhausted in two or three decades.

Our own domestic need for these hardwoods is very heavy. According to recent reports hickory, for instance, is very scarce, the general log supply alarmingly low, and it is expected that the dearth of stocks will cause advance in price. The present heavy calls for ash, oak, and yellow poplar have produced a condition approaching famine at many mills. At the same time the lumber-trade journals report that there is an enormous demand for hardwoods in Europe. The furniture factories in France, Spain, Italy, and other countries are several years behind and expect to buy abnormal quantities of raw material to catch up with their production. There is also a great demand for hardwoods in Europe for interior finish in homes and business offices.

The black walnut, which played such an important part in the war and the scarcity of which caused a great deal of anxiety to the



War Department, is a particularly good case in point. Our black walnut if properly handled could provide a continuous annual cut of from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 feet a year, which was about the average peace-time cut. The heavy drain on the walnut during the war has reduced greatly the merchantable supply. A peculiar feature of our black walnut stands is that there is a great scarcity of young trees below 6 and 8 inches in diameter. With the exhaustion, therefore, of the merchantable supply there will come a sudden drop in the supply of black walnut in this country. If there were no export of black walnut at all, it would take about 10 years for the stands to recover from the war effects sufficiently to meet the prewar demands. Left, however, to the free play of the economic law of demand and supply, our export trade will soon rise again, with the inevitable rapid exhaustion of the supply. Meanwhile the Germans announce that they are planning to plant black walnut on a large scale.

Some of the European and other countries clearly foresee the inevitable consequences of our short-sighted policy. In a government report of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in discussing the several native hardwood species suitable for the manufacture of wagons and carts, there is a very characteristic statement which shows what the foreigner thinks of our available supply of hickory. It says:

Within the past few years the reckless improvidence and desire for quick returns practiced by Yankee speculators have placed hickory spokes and even ready-made American trolleys and buggies largely on the South African market and these have found purchasers. \* \* \* Well-wishers of the Colony may, however, view this with equanimity, since it gives the more valuable hardwood forests a period of rest and recovering from the recognized mismanagement of former years, pending the inevitable ultimate failure of the American supply.

England also clearly foresees that it can not depend for its wood upon large importations from the United States. The board of directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in a communication sent to the president of the Board of Trade and of the local Government board, says:

Of the principal prewar sources of supply, Scandinavia will probably be unable to export considerable quantities and the United States of America are likely to use not only the whole of the timber cut in the States but also a large portion of the Canadian surplus.

This is particularly true if the Canadian Government should stop entirely the export of pulpwood to the United States, as has on several occasions been advocated.

#### BEARING OF DOMESTIC NEEDS ON INCREASED EXPORTS.

The amount of lumber cut for domestic consumption in the United States just prior to the war (1916) was annually between 35 and 40

billion feet. Since 1906 both the total amount of lumber used in the country and the per capita amount have decreased. This is due to several causes—the effects of local forest depletion, the increase in the use of cement, brick, and steel in place of wood, the slowing down of rural expansion and building, and the relatively greater increase in population in the cities, where wood is less used than in the farming districts. It is entirely normal that the per capita consumption should decrease as a country becomes more highly industrialized. In time, however, this will be more than counterbalanced by the increase of population. While for a number of years the total domestic consumption may not increase, later on, if the confident predictions regarding our increase in population are not wholly wrong, the aggregate domestic needs will again begin to increase. This means that in the long run any permanent increase of lumber export will increase the drain upon our forest resources.

An increase in the export trade of southern pines on a large scale, as has been stated on several occasions in some of the lumber trade journals, would remove the competition of southern pine lumber in the region north of the Ohio River, stiffen the domestic trade, and provide a favorable market for the Douglas fir in that region. Southern pine lumber at present leads in our cut and constitutes about half of the export lumber trade. It therefore to a large extent sets the pace for the price of lumber. The prices of other softwood species tend to fall and rise with the fall and rise in the price of southern pine. An increase, therefore, in the southern pine export business will likely be followed by increases in lumber prices all along the line. This may be considered a favorable condition from the standpoint of the lumber industry; but what about the building trade, which uses over 3,000,000,000 feet of southern pine lumber, the railroads, which use 4,000,000,000 feet for ties and timbers, the manufacturer of boxes and crates, using a quarter of a billion feet of southern pine lumber, the builders of railroad cars, in the construction of which southern pine lumber enters to the extent of 350,000,000 feet, the manufacturers of agricultural implements, using 100,000,000 feet, and the manufacturers of vehicles, furniture, and woodenware and the builders of ships and boats, all of whom use large quantities of southern pine? The increase in the price of this lumber must affect the cost of their product, and therefore eventually the welfare of the farmer, the worker, and the plain citizen who buys these commodities.

#### A SERIOUS SITUATION.

The foregoing facts are occasion for very grave concern to our wood-using industries and to all consumers of forest products. Many such industries do not own forests, but are dependent on timber and logs purchased from forest owners or in the open market. There are



a great many wood-using concerns that can not point to five years' supply of raw material of which they are certain. They can not contemplate with much satisfaction a policy of exports that will cause foreign competition for raw material tributary to their plants.

The American wood-using industries which give employment to American workmen and to American capital export annually \$130,000,000 worth of products manufactured in part from lumber. This is in excess of the value of the lumber export itself. We are exporting, for instance, about \$32,000,000 worth of agricultural implements, over \$30,000,000 worth of automobiles and parts, \$1,500,000 worth of sewing machines, nearly \$10,000,000 worth of tools, axes, hammers, and shovels, furniture worth \$6,500,000, about \$1,100,000 worth of doors, sash, and blinds, \$2,500,000 worth of pianos, and so on.

Is it a wise policy to attempt to develop extensive foreign markets for hardwood lumber at a time when our forests, as now handled, will be able to produce barely enough for our own industries? Is not such a policy bound to react unfavorably on our wood-using industries, by increasing the cost and diminishing the supply of raw materials, while at the same time supplying raw materials to competing industries in the countries to which we ship lumber? Even now, American lumber goes into imported automobiles, musical instruments, furniture, pencils, and other articles, aggregating in value some \$9,000,000 a year. In short, our forests are drained to support foreign factories in order that they may meet American needs for articles that might be produced here. Are we not by such a policy helping foreign industries and workmen at the expense of our own? Would it not be better to build up our own forests and provide an abundant and cheap supply of raw materials for our own wood-using industries by exporting only the surplus over and above our needs, instead of providing raw material for European furniture factories and other wood-using industries when our own will have to go without or pay excessive prices? Obviously the answer is to stop the present forest destruction, and to produce by growth enough material both for our own needs and for a healthy foreign trade.

In the discussion of the rate of forest depletion no consideration has been given to the growth of new stands of timber. The reason is that the amount of growth of material of high value is so small as to have little effect on the situation. The forests supplying the material for export are almost wholly privately owned. There is no governing influence of any kind on the methods of handling them. They are "mined," instead of treated as a renewable resource. There is no effort to secure replacement after cutting. In many parts of the country there is not even any serious effort to keep out forest fires that consume the young growth and prevent reproduction. The owners are not interested in and do not assume the re-

sponsibility for replacing, even by natural reproduction, the forests they are cutting. The result is that our total annual growth over the entire forest area of the country is only about one-third of what is being cut, and the oncoming growth is, as a rule, of inferior species, poorer grades, and therefore of lower prospective value than the original growth. As a result of the depletion of our forests, industries dependent upon wood are already going out of business, with the inevitable depressing influence on their localities. Local exhaustion of the forests is leaving great stretches of land in an unproductive condition, resulting in virtual impoverishment, if not depopulation, of very considerable areas.

### PRACTICE FORESTRY AND ENCOURAGE EXPORTS.

Such a situation is unnecessary. It exists because the public is unconscious of the economic danger that is clearly menacing its interests. The forest is a resource readily renewable by simple measures of protection and forestry. If we should begin to-day to protect our cut-over lands from fire and to use wholly practical methods of forestry to secure reproduction after logging, we could secure in the next 50 or 60 years an annual production of over 60,000,000,000 feet a year without lessening our forest capital. And this would be done without devoting to tree growth land that is not chiefly valuable for that purpose. This, after meeting the demand of the domestic needs, would leave from 20,000,000,000 to 25,000,000,000 feet of lumber for export trade—several times more than we export now.

It is clear that from the standpoint both of our domestic industries and of foreign trade the public must take cognizance of the dissipation of our forest wealth and insist on the use of constructive methods of handling forests instead of destructive exploitation. It would be humiliating to admit that we must discourage export trade because we as a nation are incompetent to safeguard and sustain our forest resources. Yet there seems to be no alternative if the present policy of *laissez faire* is pursued.

It has been demonstrated by the experience of two decades that the needed right handling of private timberlands will not be secured by suggestion, education, or ordinary methods of public cooperation. The character of the forestry problem is such that results can be secured only through the participation, cooperation, and direction of the public in a much more far-reaching degree than has heretofore been undertaken. It will be necessary that the public, through appropriate legal and administrative measures, insist upon adequate forest protection and the use of such methods of cutting as will make possible forest replacement by natural reproduction. At the same time the public must liberally assist the owners in such measures as



are necessary to make good forest handling a feasible matter. Such a policy, coupled with a broad policy of public acquisition of forests—National, State, and municipal—would make safe and wise the encouragement in a large way of the export of lumber and other forest products.

The State Department, the Department of Commerce, the Shipping Board, and the United States Tariff Commission are now developing a definite national foreign trade policy. In crystallizing such a policy let us hope that the bearing of the permanence of forest resources upon the development of a large export trade in lumber will not be overlooked. By a judicious encouragement or discouragement of various forest products, as dictated by the abundance or scarcity of our supplies, a means may be afforded for materially influencing our export lumber trade. Such an export policy, coupled with a definite policy for the permanent upbuilding of our timber resources, will make it possible to supply all our domestic needs and at the same time export raw materials needed by other countries.



